Heritage and Museum Policy

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

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REPORT

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ON

HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS POLICY

July 1988

90-00371/

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I
INTRODUCTION

Heritage and museums programming in Prince Edward Island has evolved steadily since the formation of the Historical Society of P.E.I. in 1881, and the establishment of the Island's first public museum, the Garden of the Gulf Museum, at Montague in 1956-58. Other major developments followed, including the establishment of the Public Archives in 1965, the opening of Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum in 1964, and the creation of the Prince Edward Island Heritage Foundation in 1970.

In more recent years, the Museum Act of 1983 clarified the provincial history and science museum mandate, and smaller local museums became stronger through the establishment of the Community Museums Association (Community Heritage Federation).

In summary, more than a century of historical resources development in the province, to a great extent the result of dedicated volunteer effort, has produced an enviable system of major sites, community museums, archives, galleries and support services. This system is maintained largely by provincial government funding and statutes.

The purpose of this report is to outline, for the first time, a provincial heritage and museums policy, one that sets out major aims and objectives, determines the roles and responsibilities of the various agencies and institutions, and promotes coordinated planning and development in the sector.

It signals a new maturity and professionalism in the Island heritage and museums community, and a growing willingness to work together for the collective betterment.

The report which follows does not address development issues or opportunities, since this was not within the Committee's mandate, and specific recommendations deal only with unassigned or inadequately fulfilled areas of mandate. Similarly, funding levels and particular institutional issues are only dealt with marginally.

II

ISLAND HERITAGE: DEFINITION AND MISSION

Quot homines, tot sententiae. In seeking a definition of heritage, Terence's words are appropriate: as many men, so many views.

To the archaeologist a post hole or a stone, worked or otherwise, may be of great significance. To the historian there are of course documents, but there may be aspects of heritage that are intangible. To the archivist there may be jottings in a notebook that record a modest business transaction. To the art historian our legacy from the past may include the work of skilled artists but also the efforts of untrained painters. To the environmentalist his concern may be of a matter of dunes, or erosion. To the curator of a museum it may be fine furniture, a well-designed door, the dress of past centuries, the handmade nails used in a log cabin. To the folklorist the quarry may be a song, a story, a legend. To the collector, whether private or public, what calls for preservation and display may be a work of unparalleled beauty. To each one of us, that which is significant about the past, that which affects our present and future, that which gives special meaning to our ancestry, is different in each case. Nor is there any defence needed for that difference as long as we see ourselves as each distinctive. To put it in another way, there is hardly anything from the past that cannot qualify as someone's idea of heritage.

So broad an interpretation, however laudable in other respects, is impractical as a basis for determining a provincial policy on heritage and museums, for a policy, whatever else it may be, is primarily an instrument by which some things (or ideas) are selected for specialized protection, others not. And

selection, unless a lottery, involves judgement. Thus a policy represents a framework within which judgement can operate. While no one will probably disagree with this view of policy, can there be a similar degree of agreement about the criteria that inform the judgement? Can there be agreement about the choice of those things that should be protected, for inevitably in the broadest sense our potential heritage will always be larger than that part which we "place in protective custody"? In other words, what is that heritage which as a Province we should systematically preserve?

The answer lies in the recognition that there is a collective identity and personality that characterize Prince Edward Island and its people and make both distinctive. Furthermore, this character has been shaped by certain natural, cultural and material attributes, which together define the provincial heritage. Chief among these are the following general categories: **landscape and natural history; archaeological remains** from both prehistoric and historic times; the **built environment; material history; social and cultural history; the arts; and archival records.** These are the main facets of the heritage that tells the story of the Island's collective past. Part of that story is shared with all other living organisms on this planet; but part is unique to Prince Edward Island. And while the former should never be ignored or forgotten, the latter must always be the focus of special concern.

The heritage which the Province must strive to preserve is that part of the Island's rich and complex legacy which presents the Island's story, so that all people, but particularly Islanders,may gain an understanding of past life here, and may thus find their own lives enriched. So that these purposes may be achieved, the Island's heritage of all categories must be carefully selected, studied, preserved, recorded, and

interpreted, and some of it exhibited. In determining what constitutes that part of one's heritage worth preserving, each generation should recognize that it selects from the past for the benefit of all future times. Thus the stewardship of the Province's heritage is a continuing responsibility always demanding judgement.

Who are the **stewards** and how do they carry out their responsibility?

The responsibility for caring for one's heritage falls on all of us, individually and collectively. As individuals our concern may be with a landscape created by our forbears, a house built by a grandparent, stories, even legends, passed from one generation to another, artifacts and objects of art that illustrate our ancestors and their pursuits, the Bible with the names and dates of all the family. Collectively we are interested in the heritage of a community, a society, a church, a union, a profession, a clan. And beyond these small units, we are interested in the heritage of the Island, not merely the sum of these units but something more. Responsibility, however, does not stop with individuals. It also falls on institutions. Churches have their records and their historic buildings, so too the University; villages, towns and cities have similar legacies; and the Provincial Government has its records to preserve as well as any historic material that may have been left in its care.

How is this responsibility exercised? Whatever the unit, whether individual, society, institution, or government, the story is basically the same. There must be not only an acknowledgement of the need to preserve one's heritage, but also a determination to see that responsibility is carried out. In a family, this will frequently be the role of the head of the household and later the eldest child and so on. In other cases

it will be that member of the family who shows the most interest in keeping intact the family heirlooms. In a society or church or union, it is obviously the responsibility of the institution through its executive to insure that records or relics are properly preserved. Similarly with the various levels of government. It is not enough to say that heritage must be protected. Mechanisms must be provided, and monitored, to secure this intent.

The Provincial Government has a special role that goes beyond the treatment of its own records and its care for those objects placed within its charge. It must set an example of good stewardship. Not only must it show appropriate concern for the collection of material but also for its preservation. There is little point in a government exhorting others to cherish their inheritance if it shows no similar attitude to provincial archives or provincial buildings. Moreover, the government has at least two other major responsibilities. Because it represents the voice of the community, and that voice has clearly stated the importance of heritage in the life of the community, the government must see that the various agencies, societies, private and public, together with individuals interested in the subject constitute a cohesive, comprehensive, organized network for the protection of the Island's heritage. Where it seems that this is not so, that there are weak, or even missing links in the chain, the government should be prepared to bring forward answers. Its other major responsibility is to organize and support through public funds certain elements within the system of protection of heritage that are beyond the means of the separate units, perhaps even beyond their vision. Just as the Federal Government supports a number of major museums, so it falls to the Provincial Government to provide, either through a provincial museum centrally located or through regional branches, a holistic view of our heritage.

A willingness on the part of the Provincial Government to encourage the enactment of a provincial policy on heritage and museums is a statement of the government's determination to insure that the Island's heritage is appropriately treated so that all citizens may enjoy this legacy from the past. In calling for a policy the Government is not saying that it wishes to take over the management of heritage and museums. The truth is far different. It is the Government's clear wish to participate as a partner with all sectors of the community, whether individuals or groups, however organized, to discover the best way to provide our present and future citizens with a critical understanding of the environment and peoples of the Island on which we live.

III

PRESENT ROLES, MANDATES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Given that there are on Prince Edward Island a number of institutions concerned with the Island's heritage, an examination of their various mandates and responsibilities should precede any determination of the objectives of a policy on heritage and museums. The following assessment is organized by those general categories previously listed which can be said to the provincial heritage.

LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL HISTORY

The landscape of Prince Edward Island constitutes a major part of the natural environment that needs to be preserved. If the Island is to retain its distinctive heritage, one of the most important dimensions of that heritage is the landscape and natural environment. Experience teaches us that the continued existence of such characteristic elements as scenic roads, hedgerows, dunes, beaches, and farmland (to name the most obvious) is threatened unless deliberate actions are taken to prevent their disappearance, whether by natural events such as erosion, or by construction of new roads, or by sale or redevelopment.

To date, the prime responsibility for defending the Island's landscape has been taken by the Provincial Government in a series of legislative acts (for example, the **Environmental Protection Act**, the **Planning Act**, the **Recreation and Development Act**, the **Signage Act**), and by the Island Nature Trust, particularly through its leadership in the development of a Conservation Strategy. The existence of a Provincial Conservation Office and of a number of provincial commissions concerned with the use and development of land, and the establishment of a Provincial

Conservation Strategy Advisory Council, all make clear the Government's concern to protect the landscape against further devastation.

The protection of the natural environment, landscape included, cannot, however, be left to the Government alone. In this regard the role of the Island Nature Trust needs to be strengthened so that it can exercise leadership and display its wisdom and critical concern to an even greater extent than is possible today. Its position as one of the key players in any conservation strategy associated with the natural environment probably needs to be acknowledged by the Provincial Government and incorporated within the Trust's mandate. The appropriateness of a legislative act to this end needs to be examined.

In the case of natural history, the situation is quite different, for it is clear from the **Museum Act** that the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Museum) is responsible for natural history. Yet while the Museum lobbies on behalf of natural history and some of its publishing supports this area, it administers no museums or programs specifically concerned with the Island's natural history. As an educator in this field, it is in fact the Island Nature Trust, not the Museum, that seems to be taking the lead.

The existing state of affairs needs clarification. If the Provincial Government wants the Museum to exercise a proper degree of responsibility for preserving the Island's heritage in the record of its natural history, then it should provide the Museum with resources appropriate for the task. If by contrast it wants another agency or institution to assume this duty, then the **Museum Act** needs to be amended and another agency or institution named to play this essential role.

Whatever the solution adopted by the Provincial Government, it should to be noted that it is not enough to name an agency or institution to carry out the task of preserving the Island's natural history. In that the Museum has already been named, it should be evident that something more is needed if there is real support for the belief that this area of the Island's heritage should be protected. It is a very large assignment, which if properly carried out will call for considerable expenditures. The preservation of the natural heritage can only be entrusted to specialists with professional training.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

The recently passed **Archaeological Sites Protection Act** is testimony of the Government's intention both to protect archaeological sites and to control excavations. It is a good first step, and it is to be hoped that the proposed Advisory Board will provide the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs with disinterested advice that will lead to an improvement in the degree of protection afforded archaeological sites. It is however not enough to protect sites. There must also be a systematic plan both to record the Island's archaeological remains and to explore those considered of special significance.

Responsibility for excavations and archaeological surveys is loosely exercised. Parks Canada works within the federally administered parks but is not constrained to seek provincial approval for its plans. The National Museum of Man also has conducted important excavations under the supervision of its professional staff. No provincially-based agency or institution is actively engaged in the study of the Province's archaeological remains.

In the short term there would appear to be a need to develop a protocol between the Federal and Provincial Governments with respect to archaeological exploration conducted by agents of the former. Information gathered in this way should be made immediately and freely available for local study, and the eventual disposition of the records and artifacts should be governed by the **Museum Act**, that is, they should be placed in the Museum (or in any other public institution named by the Minister). In the long run, however, the responsibility for systematic and ongoing exploration of the Island's archaeological remains a provincial matter, and the work of outside agents should be made to serve a provincial strategy.

The area of underwater archaeology should not be forgotten in any plans developed by the Advisory Board. Happily, the new **Archaeological Sites Protection Act** includes material found within the Island's territorial waters. Less happy is the question of ownership of material drawn from wrecks, a matter controlled by century-old Federal legislation involving the authority of the Receiver of Wrecks, represented on the Island by the Head of the Coast Guard. Here is another area in which it would seem reasonable to invite a review of the legislation to make sure that the Island's interests are adequately protected.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

There is no uniform legislation within the Province to protect the built environment, and the situation varies from adequate to non-existent. In Charlottetown, for example, the existence of an active Charlottetown Heritage Review Board appointed by the Mayor insures that the City Council is given judicious advice in the matter of the issuance of building permits and the designation of heritage structures. While the Council can in fact override the advice it receives, that advice constitutes a

strong moral force and cannot be ignored lightly. By contrast, Summerside and other municipalities, while they have the power to enact legislation aimed at protecting the built environment, have not so acted.

In all areas administered by a community council, building permits are issued by the Minister of Cultural and Community Affairs, similarly in non-organized, non-incorporated areas. But the Minister has no power to be swayed in his decision by considerations of heritage or aesthetics. A permit must be issued if the proposed building meets the requirements of the various codes.

While the Museum has among its legislated powers the right to "acquire, hold, preserve, maintain, reconstruct, restore, and manage property of historical, architectural, and cultural interest," it can exercise these rights **only** if properties are offered on a voluntary basis to the Museum.

Because the built environment is differently protected in different parts of the Province regardless of its heritage value, and because neither the Provincial Government nor the Museum has regulatory powers that can be exercised in defense of heritage structures otherwise unprotected, there is an obvious need to establish a unified provincial policy towards the protection of the built environment and whatever mechanisms are needed to put that policy into effect, such as a Provincial Heritage Review Board.

It is not enough to protect our architectural heritage by means of regulations. There must also be provision for advice and help in architectural conservation. The beginnings of such a program do indeed exist at the Museum, and it involves not only the delivery of professional assistance but also the awakening of

public interest. But the need for an enlarged program is obvious, and the Museum should be asked to design a plan for offering services in this area on a scale that meets the Island's requirements. Meanwhile, every effort should be made to update, revise and review an earlier survey of the built environment.

MATERIAL HISTORY

Artifacts illustrative of, or associated with, the Island's heritage are collected, preserved, studied and exhibited by several organizations, the chief being the Museum and the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum (hereinafter referred to as the Art Gallery). While the mandate of the museum is specifically limited to the "human and natural heritage of Prince Edward Island," the Art Gallery has a national character and the present collection "consists of historical as well as contemporary art, representative of various periods and schools in Canada and includes works from all regions and ethnic communities in the nation." The categories of artifacts collected by the Art Gallery include the decorative arts, fine arts, costume, archives associated with the artists collected, photographs, maps and folk objects. Obviously, the Museum is also interested in these same categories, and some outstanding artifacts would fit the collection of either institution. In general, however, the Art Gallery seeks works of art, both fine and decorative, of high artistic quality that best illustrate contemporary Canadian art. The Museum, by contrast, attempts to assemble a full record of the Province's material culture, regardless of the artistic level achieved. The potential for conflict between them is there, and both institutions should probably make a public statement of their policy on collecting.

Beyond this, it is to be hoped that the Province's interests will be served by a willingness on the part of both institutions to consult and co-operate.

The branch museums and smaller community-based museums are also minor collectors of artifacts associated with the region in which the particular museum is located. With respect to most of these regional and local institutions it is reasonable to assume that there is really no conflict with the overall mandate of the Museum. Moreover, it should not be a difficult task to establish some measure of integration of acquisition policies between the Museum and its branch associates, if not directly, then indirectly through the offices of the Community Museums Association of Prince Edward Island.

The collection created by one local (provincial) museum demands special attention. The Acadian Museum at Miscouche collects artifacts that illustrate the history and culture of Island Acadians. While it is perfectly understandable that this museum should do so, this activity raises a question: Should the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation also collect Acadian artifacts as part of the material history of the Province? To some degree this question will be answered if the Acadian Museum accepts the status of a branch museum associated with the Museum. To some degree, however, it will not, for there will continue to exist a tension between local or specific interests and dignities, and those of the Island as a whole. Moreover, one can never forget to ask whether local museums realistically can provide security and environmental conditions adequate for the preservation of the artifacts in question.

Responsibility for the preservation of the Island's material history is thus seen as fragmented. This is not a bad thing, but it does underline the need to make sure that the efforts of the

various agencies and institutions are integrated in support of a commonly adopted policy. It is essential that the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum be one of those in agreement with that policy.

Another responsibility involved in the collection of material history is the proper conservation of artifacts, and this is a responsibility that cannot be put off or minimized. In the matter of a comprehensive program of preservation, even if limited to those objects in need of special or immediate treatment, the Province is not well served at this time. There is at the Art gallery a fully trained technician with expertise in the handling of paper, thus invaluable in any work of conservation associated with archives. But beyond this one person, the Island has virtually no capacity to provide professional care for artifacts, not even at the Museum. Instead, there is a total reliance on access to the Canadian Conservation Institute, which can cope with a very limited number of objects in any one year, the precise choice being a responsibility of the Provincial Priorities Committee. The existing lack of facilities for conservation must be addressed at once, and solutions proposed, the range of answers to include a consideration of a scheme of mobile labs as well as the establishment of a central laboratory. To guide the Province in the development of an appropriate strategy that will ensure the proper care of its material heritage, the Provincial Conservation Committee should be asked to prepare a policy for the consideration of the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs. The time for such a policy is now, and its enactment as soon as possible.

WRITTEN HISTORY (INCLUDING GENEALOGY)

The use of written historical material, whether published or archival, is well supported by the Museum, the Art Gallery, the Prince Edward Island Public Archives and Records Office (hereinafter referred to as the Public Archives), the University of Prince Edward Island (hereinafter referred to as the University), the Institute for Island Studies, and various local historical societies. The Museum is the chief source of records needed for genealogical studies. While those records could be made part of the Public Archives if there was a wish to enlarge its operational scope, with a corresponding increase in space and cost, the records that would be added would not in fact constitute original documents but secondary studies. It would appear that the present arrangement and division do not impede the orderly use of genealogical material, as long as the Museum can provide adequate space and services for those wishing to consult the records. Furthermore, if the Public Archives were to expand in the near future, it would seem more reasonable that it assume added responsibility for management of the provincial records.

It would probably be of great help to those engaged in historical research, particularly to the non-professionals, if a brochure were prepared making clear the type, and extent, of help that the several agencies and institutions could provide in support of historical research and writing. Of equal help might be a similar publication on grants and publication programs. With respect to the latter, this is perhaps the time for the Museum, the University, and the Institute of Island Studies to coordinate their support of publications.

FOLKLORE AND ORAL HISTORY

This is an area of the Island's heritage that has been neglected. A number of private collections of taped material do exist, and there are over one hundred tapes stored in the Public Archives. So far, the study of folklore and the preservation of oral history has been conducted by individuals without institutional support. If this state of affairs is to be rectified, and indeed it should be corrected if one is not to lose valuable records for the future benefit of Islanders, then the basic issue, other than the provision of adequate financial resources, is the choice of the best agency or institution to provide the competence needed to insure the appropriate development and care of a folklore/oral archive. In that none of the existing agencies and institutions concerned with the Island's heritage have made any commitment to this area, that choice can be made solely on the results of an objective assessment of the pertinent issues surrounding the establishment of a repository for folklore/oral history. A feasibility study should thus be undertaken and its results communicated to the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs. The Institute of Island Studies is to be congratulated for the initiatives it is showing in this regard, and for its efforts to commission a study "for the purpose of establishing the potential role of (oral) . . . archives, as well as examining the best way to proceed, should it be decided to set one up." It is to be hope that this study will provide sound basis for decisions that can lead to a coherent program for the collecting, preserving, and editing of the Island's heritage in the domains of oral history and folklore.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY:

For the most part the preservation of the Island's heritage contained in its social and cultural history is a matter for individuals. Such persons may have an interest in research, writing, publishing, or organization, and their separate skills may lead to essays and books, or the establishment and administration of societies concerned with the transmittal of the community's past, to name a few of the ways available to preserve the Island's history. But beyond the work of individuals, there is a place for the efforts of government in educating and encouraging the people to take responsibility for safeguarding the legacy and lessons derived form the customs, beliefs and acts of forbears. Such ways could include a program of subsidies for both research and publication, and a number of annual awards to honour those whose contributions to the study of social and cultural history have been judged particularly meritorious.

THE ARTS

There are many categories of endeavor that are contained within the arts, and no list will be exhaustive. The following is the work of a few minutes and is intended only to suggest something of the vastness of this section of the Island's heritage: literature, including fiction and poetry; the visual arts, namely painting, sculpture, printing, and photography; environmental arts, such as architecture and landscaping; the performing arts, chief of which are music (including musical instruments and their production), dance, and the theatre; the minor arts, for example, fine craft, ceramics, jewelry, and weaving; and the history of design.

Just as it is hard to define the limits of the arts, so is it difficult to describe precisely the role of each of the major players in preserving this area of the Island's heritage. For example, the Museum does not collect "the arts," yet nevertheless has deliberately assembled what amount to collections of historical photographs and examples of commercial graphic design. The Art Gallery, while it has no specific mandate to collect the work of Islanders, has in fact allowed such a focus of interest and almost half of its holdings represent local artists. It also collects photographs but the emphasis is on this category as an art form; with the minor arts the accent is on design quality. The community museums have major collections devoted to local subjects, and many of the objects so collected illustrate the arts. The Public Archives is a third institution with a major interest in photographs. It also has a collection of architectural plans. At the University there is a modest holding in musical instruments looked after by the Department of Music; under the supervision of a committee on the arts, the University has bought almost three hundred works created by Island artists in various media; and it is the policy of the University's Library to acquire all printed material by Islanders or about the Island. The Provincial Library also constitutes a major collection of printed material associated with the Island. Holland College is the Custodian of the Island Art Collection. Finally, it should be noted that Theatre P.E.I. and the local theatres, no less than the Art Gallery, keep alive traditional aspects of the performing arts.

With so many interested agencies and institutions assuming such significant roles in support of the arts, what is needed is a clarification of the roles played by the individual organizations to make sure that there is no unnecessary overlapping of activities, and conversely, that there are no cracks to endanger any of the arts. In the specific area of Island art there is a

need to negotiate the details of the Art Gallery's mandate. Despite its national perspective, it is clearly the best equipped institution on the Island to assume responsibility for assembling a representative collection of Island artists.

Given the Art Gallery's holdings and its resources for storage and exhibition, there can be no question that it has a central role to play in the protection of the Island's heritage in the arts. Obviously it will have no exclusive mandate to collect art, but the details of its role and that of other institutions need to be delineated so that there is understanding and co-operation among collectors. The Province is not so rich in resources that it can ignore the possibility of making the Art Gallery a critical partner in its strategy for securing the future of the Island's artistic heritage.

Because there is a Provincial Arts Policy Task Force studying complementary issues in the field of the contemporary arts, no attempt has been made in this assessment to cover the mandates and responsibilities of those institutions (small galleries, for example) whose interests are focused on the arts and crafts of today.

ARCHIVAL RECORDS

The Public Archives has a clearly defined mandate "for the safe keeping, classification, indexing and inventorying of all public documents and court records deposited in that office." This is an onerous responsibility, and one which the Archives has carried out admirably with meagre resources. The need for a properly-funded public records management program, however, is more than evident.

The Public Archives also is the main public repository of private records significant for the study of Island history. But there are other collections. For example, the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation frequently receives archival material along with other artifacts, but where possible these records are transferred to the Archives, even though title remains with the Museum. Similarly, the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum collects archival material associated with the artists among its holdings, particularly Robert Harris. The Acadian Museum at Miscouche also collects archival material pertinent to Island Acadians. There are a number of collections in the Robertson Library at the University, of special importance being those which deal with Saint Dunstan's University and Prince of Wales College. And finally, there are numerous known collections in private hands.

Because there is an institution with legislated responsibility for the collection and preservation of archival records pertaining to the Island, it should be regarded as the principal repository for such material. However, it is reasonable to expect that other institutions in the province will continue to maintain their own specialized collections, making information exchange and coordination of effort in this area of our heritage extremely important.

IV

THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

A. OBJECTIVES

Having defined heritage and its mission, and outlined the present roles, mandates, and responsibilities attached to the various agencies and institutions, the Committee puts forward the following objectives as being central to a new provincial heritage and museums policy:

1. **TO ENSURE THAT THE HERITAGE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND IS PRESERVED, PROTECTED, AND MADE AVAILABLE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ITS CITIZENS.**

2. **TO FURTHER AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF ISLAND HERITAGE IN ALL ITS ASPECTS.**

3. **TO ENCOURAGE THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO HERITAGE PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCE.**

4. **TO PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND EXCELLENCE WITHIN THE PROVINCIAL HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS COMMUNITY.**

5. **TO ENCOURAGE GREATER INTEGRATION AND COHERENCE AMONGST EXISTING PROVINCIAL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS THROUGH CO-OPERATIVE PLANNING.**

B. PROVINCIAL HERITAGE COUNCIL

In many respects the strength and quality of Prince Edward Island's overall heritage program can be attributed to its decentralized character, and to the evolution of distinctive institutions, large and small, each with its own purpose and constituency. Such diversity of interest and commitment should be encouraged, for it is a very hallmark of Island culture and community life. However, a provincial heritage policy to be effective must do more than affirm the separate roles of agencies and institutions. It needs to assert a commonality of purpose, and provide an organizational framework in which this purpose can be achieved.

As its initial and most fundamentally important recommendation, the committee proposes the establishment of a **Provincial Heritage Council**, to

1. **assist the development, implementation and periodic review of provincial heritage policy;**

2. **recommend appropriate legislation, programs and services in support of Island heritage;**

3. **advise the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs on inter-governmental heritage and museums matters;**

4. **serve as an executive forum.**

Membership on this Council would be comprised of those lead agencies and organization presently mandated by the province to deliver heritage and museums services, namely:

The P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation

The Public Archives (Department of CCA)

Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum

The Community Museums Association of P.E.I.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (Cultural Affairs Division)

Chairmanship of the Council should change on a rotating basis, with the Department acting as permanent secretary but never Chairman, therefore ensuring the Council a degree of functional independence from Government.

The Committee fully expects that problems and difficulties in the heritage field will still abound long after the establishment of the Heritage Council, and we derive no pleasure from recommending yet another bureaucratic mechanism. But we remain firmly convinced that such a multi-agency working group, meeting regularly to exchange ideas and information, and to provide Government with expert advice would represent a major step forward. Without such a coordinating mechanism the realization of provincial heritage policy objectives will be difficult. For this reason we view the Heritage Council as a priority, a precursor of sorts, and call for its establishment prior to the implementing of other recommendations contained in this report.

C. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

LANDSCAPE AND NATURAL HISTORY

1. We recommend that the role of the Island Nature Trust be strengthened generally, and its position as a key player in the provincial conservation strategy acknowledged by government and incorporated within the Trust's mandate.

2. We recommend that government provide the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation with sufficient resources to properly and adequately deliver its legislated mandate in the area of natural history.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

3. We recommend that the province develop a protocol with the federal government with respect to archaeological exploration conducted in the province by agents of the federal government.

4. We recommend that a provincial strategy be designed for the systematic and ongoing exploration of the Island's archaeological resources.

5. We recommend that a review be carried out of legislation governing the recovery of materials found within the Island's territorial waters.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

6. We recommend that a unified provincial policy for the protection of the built environment be established.

7. We recommend that the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation upgrade its architectural conservation services.

MATERIAL HISTORY

8. We recommend that the P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation and the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum take a collaborative approach to collections policy.

9. We recommend that the Provincial Conservation Committee prepare for the consideration of government a strategy that will ensure the proper care of the Island's material heritage.

FOLKLORE/ORAL HISTORY

10. We recommend that a study be carried out by a relevant agency to determine the feasibility of establishing a repository for Island folklore and oral history.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

11. We recommend that a research and publication subsidy program be established.

12. We recommend that an awards program be introduced to honour Islanders who have made an outstanding contribution to the study of social and cultural history.

THE ARTS

13. **We recommend that the province and the Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum negotiate a provincial mandate and responsibility for contemporary fine art.**

14. **We recommend that Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum assume custodial responsibilities for the Provincial Art Bank Collection.**

ARCHIVAL RECORDS

15. **We recommend that government initiate a records management program at the Public Archives.**

V
APPENDICES

A. TERMS OF REFERENCE

B. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS POLICY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

REVISED APRIL 4, 1987

1. The task of the Committee will be to develop a comprehensive provincial heritage and museum policy for presentation to the Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs, and for eventual consideration by Government. This policy will:

   1.1 state the aims and objectives of a comprehensive and integrated provincial heritage and museums policy;

   1.2 set out the mandate, roles and responsibilities of the various agencies and organizations including government, in support of this policy;

   1.3 outline a framework through which these agencies and organizations can work cooperatively for the betterment of the entire sector;

   1.4 recommend an ongoing advisory mechanism whereby the Minister can be regularly informed and advised with regards to future heritage and museums development in the province, and through which provincial policies can be periodically reviewed.

2. The Committee will be comprised of representatives at the senior official's level, from the following agencies and organizations:

   2.1 Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation

2.2 Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum

2.3 Community Heritage Federation of Prince Edward Island

2.4 Public Archives of Prince Edward Island

3. In carrying out its task the Committee, if required, will consult directly with outside sources of expertise.

4. The committee will be chaired by the Director of Cultural Affairs, on behalf of the Minister, and will make its report to the latter by October 1, 1987.

PROVINCIAL HERITAGE AND MUSEUMS POLICY COMMITTEE

Official Representatives

1. Allan Rankin, (Chairman)
   Director, Cultural Affairs Division
   Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
   Government of Prince Edward Island
   Tel: 892-0311

2. Nicholas deJong (succeeded by Marilyn Bell)
   Provincial Archivist
   Public Archives of Prince Edward Island
   Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
   Government of Prince Edward Island
   Tel: 892-3504

3. Dr. C. W. J. Eliot
   President
   Community Museums Association of Prince Edward Island
   Tel: 892-9127

4. Ian Scott
   Executive Director
   P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation
   Tel: 892-9127

5. David Webber
   Director
   Confederation Centre Art gallery and Museum
   Confederation Centre of the Arts
   Tel: 566-2464

Observer Participants

1. Dr. Ian MacQuarrie
   Chairman, Board of Governors
   P.E.I. Museum and Heritage Foundation
   Tel: 566-0301

2. Brian Anthony
   Executive Director
   Confederation Centre of the Arts
   Tel: 566-2464